CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN TEXTS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF STRATEGIC STABILITY

We have the honour to forward to you the English, French and Russian texts of the Joint Statement of the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the sphere of strategic stability.

We would be grateful if this Joint Statement could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Vasily SIDOROV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

(Signed:) Christopher WESTDAL
Ambassador,
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JOINT STATEMENT
of the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the sphere of strategic stability

The Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the Russian Federation confirm their commitment to strengthening strategic stability and international security as one of today's most important priorities.

In this regard, Canada takes note of the Statement of the President of the Russian Federation on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and strategic stability of November 13, 2000. Canada and the Russian Federation agree that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty is a cornerstone of strategic stability and an important foundation for international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The two countries hope for the earliest entry into force and full implementation of the START II Treaty. They also hope for conclusion of a START III Treaty as soon as possible, including far-reaching reductions in strategic offensive weapons while preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty.

The Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the Russian Federation are committed to exploring concrete new bilateral and multilateral approaches to limiting the proliferation of missiles and missile technologies. In this context, Canada and the Russian Federation will continue together with other countries to work on proposals for confidence-building measures and normative instruments developed by the member-states of the Missile Technology Control Regime as well as the Russian proposal for a global control system over non-proliferation of missiles and missile technologies.

In the interests of strengthening global strategic stability and the non-proliferation regime, Canada and the Russian Federation will continue close cooperation on preventing an arms race in outer space, including interaction in the preparation and holding in Moscow in the spring of 2001 of an international conference on the non-weaponization of outer-space, as well as efforts at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to re-establish an appropriate Ad Hoc Committee. A round table of experts of the two countries will be held in January 2001 in order to compare the views of both sides in this sphere.

Canada and the Russian Federation welcome the successful outcome of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference earlier this year, confirm their full support for its Final Document and pledge maximum efforts to carry out its commitments for concrete action at an early date. In this regard, they will work resolutely for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and will strengthen their efforts to re-initiate negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

Canada and the Russian Federation are also ready to widen discussions, particularly within the framework of the IAEA, on the issues associated with the initiative of the Russian President on the energy requirements of sustainable development, global ecological revitalization and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Canada and the Russian Federation reaffirm their shared commitment to the non-proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction and reaffirm their full support for export control arrangements aimed at achieving these goals. They agree on the need to move quickly towards the implementation of the Russian Federation/USA Agreement on Plutonium Dispositioning. In this regard they stress the importance of ongoing work to achieve the goal set by the G8 to develop, by the time of the Genoa Summit of the G8, an international financing plan for plutonium management and disposition based on a detailed project plan and a multilateral framework to coordinate this cooperation. Canada and the Russian Federation reaffirm the commitment made at the 1996 Moscow Summit to safety first in the use of nuclear power and achievement of high safety standards world wide, as well as their commitment to the Nuclear Safety Convention.

Canada and the Russian Federation are both committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to cooperating in its implementation.

Canada and the Russian Federation confirm that the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, signed ten years ago, is still the cornerstone of stability in Europe and note the importance of the Second Review Conference to be held in May 2001. The two countries affirm the importance of the entry into force of the Open Skies Treaty.

Canada and the Russian Federation state their resolve to enhance the effectiveness of the UN and its Security Council, the UN's key body, in maintaining international peace and security. They also consider it important to search collectively for ways to increase the effectiveness of the international community's capacity to react to critical crisis situations, including of humanitarian character, in accordance with the UN Charter, decisions of the Security Council and norms and principles of international law. In this regard, they in particular will work to implement the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel report on UN Peace Operations agreed by the Security Council as detailed in Security Council Resolution 1327 and the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

Canada and the Russian Federation agree on the importance of enriching the on-going NATO Russia dialogue and the work of the Permanent Joint Council as laid down in the NATO-Russia Founding Act. They discussed ways to enhance the NATO-Russia partnership and noted the successful cooperation of NATO and Russian forces in the Balkans. Canada and the Russian Federation agreed that cooperation in the framework of the PJC can make an important contribution to security and stability.

Canada and the Russian Federation attach special importance to the OSCE as a comprehensive regional organization for consultations, decision-making and cooperation. They welcome its key contribution to the development of an area of equal security on the basis of the concept of common and comprehensive security. They reaffirm their adherence to the principles, norms and commitments enshrined in OSCE documents. Canada and the Russian Federation agreed that the full realization of the OSCE's potential in the political-military, economic, environmental and humanitarian dimensions of security, without regional selectivity, would allow it to react effectively to the challenges to international security, including international terrorism, militant extremism, organized crime and drug

trafficking, as well as to protect and facilitate the exercise of the rights of national minorities, thereby preventing inter-ethnic conflicts. They will work together to solve these problems.

Canada and the Russian Federation express their concern about the problem of illicit trafficking, uncontrolled and destabilizing spread and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons in the world, especially in conflict regions. They declare their full support for the UN Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects planned for July 2001 and call for that conference to adopt a comprehensive action plan of concrete measures to combat this problem.

Canada and the Russian Federation attach great importance to the development of Canada-Russia interaction within the framework of international operations under the aegis of the UN aimed at strengthening regional security and stability and human security. The Russian Federation confirms its positive approach towards the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and of their Destruction, and its intent to join it in due course. Canada restates its desire to collaborate with the Russian Federation in joint endeavours on humanitarian de-mining and liquidation of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

Canada and the Russian Federation discussed the human rights and human security agenda in a broad and comprehensive approach. They noted in particular the importance of dealing with issues such as small arms and light weapons, war affected children and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In this regard, Canada welcomed the Russian Federation's recent signature of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

As agreed at the G8, both Canada and the Russian Federation are determined to fight the main causes of the multiple threats to human security, and are committed to creating an environment where the basic rights, the safety and the very survival of all individuals are guaranteed. They condemn all forms of terrorism regardless of their motivation. They welcome the successful negotiation of the UN Convention Against Organized Crime and look forward to its early entry into force. Canada and the Russian Federation emphasize that crucial cornerstones of human security remain democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance and human development.

Canada and the Russian Federation look forward to working closely on a wide agenda for conflict prevention, and in this context, express concern over the link between the illicit trade in rough diamonds and armed conflict. Canada and the Russian Federation underline the need for action in support of UN and G8 commitments and other international initiatives to address this problem, including further consideration of a simple and workable international certification scheme for rough diamonds.

The Russian Federation notes the establishment by Canada of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. Canada and the Russian Federation agree to consult regularly during the course of the Commission's work.

Canada and the Russian Federation will continue to consult and cooperate in their

efforts to contribute to the peace process with a view to reaching a just and comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Canada and the Russian Federation support the efforts of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe to promote democracy, security and prosperity in that region. The inclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in October completes the Pact's regional membership and will greatly assist the Pact in achieving its goals, including stronger regional ownership of the process. In addition, Canada and the Russian Federation will continue to work together in the High Level Steering Group to catalyse assistance to the region, and coordinate donor involvement in the most efficient manner.

Canada and the Russian Federation intend to continue the practice of coordinating the approaches of the two countries in the sphere of strategic stability at annual official consultations.

Ottawa, December 18, 2000